

with this Amendment Under 37.C.F.R. §1.114 a Request for Continued Examination, along with a petition to extend the period of time for filing a Brief on Appeal for three (3) months, from February 27, 2003, to May 27, 2003.

Amendment of the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel Claims 8 through 16.

Amend Claim 1 as shown below:

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1. (Amended) A process for heat treating components in an atmospheric heat treating furnace comprising the steps:
 - (a) treating a component in an atmospheric furnace with a treating gas;
 - (b) feeding the heat treated component containing the treating gas into a quenching chamber;
 - (c) feeding a quenching gas into the quenching chamber to contact the treated component and mix with the treating gas; and
 - (d) feeding the quenching gas and treating gas of step (c) into a gas recovery chamber where the treating gas and quenching gas are separated by a membrane to provide a purified quenching gas.

Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

REMARKS

The remainder of this amendment is set forth under appropriate sub-headings.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is enclosed with this amendment. The Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement includes citation of Holm, T.